



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard D. Gresham, et al. Atty. Docket: 2877 (203-3419)

Serial No.: 10/720,510 Group: Art Unit - Unknown

Filed: November 23, 2003 Dated: February 26, 2004

For: **SHEATH INTRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant's continuing duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the disclosures cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. Copies of the foreign references and other prior art are submitted herewith.

An English language translation of DE 19814576A is not available at this time. However, it is respectfully submitted that the contents of DE 19814576A may be readily ascertained from the drawing figures thereof.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 26, 2004.

Dated: February 26, 2004



Francesco Sardone

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

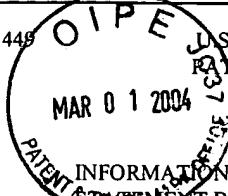


Francesco Sardone

Reg. No. 47,918

Attorney for Applicants

CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Telephone: (631) 501-5700
Facsimile: (631) 501-3526

Form PTO-1449  (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2877 (203-3419)	SERIAL NO. 10/720,510
	APPLICANTS Richard D. Gresham, et al.	
	FILING DATE November 24, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT - Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	668,879	02/1901	Miller			
	1,213,001	01/1917	Philips			
	1,248,492	12/1917	Hill			
	2,548,602	04/1951	Greenburg			
	3,509,883	11/1967	Dibelius			
	3,545,443	12/1970	Ansari			
	3,742,958	07/1973	Rundles			
	3,788,318	01/1974	Kim et al.			
	3,789,852	02/1974	Kim et al..			
	3,902,492	09/1975	Greenhalgh			
	4,018,230	04/1977	Ochiai et al.			
	4,141,364	02/1979	Schultze			
	4,411,655	10/1983	Schreck			
	4,447,237	05/1984	Frisch et al.			
	4,479,497	10/1984	Fogarty et al.			
	4,581,025	04/1986	Timmermans			
	4,589,868	05/1986	Dretler			
	4,601,713	07/1986	Fuqua			
	4,610,688	09/1986	Silvestrini et al.			
	4,650,466	03/1987	Luther			
	4,710,181	12/1987	Fuqua			
	4,716,901	01/1988	Jackson et al.			
	4,738,666	04/1988	Fuqua			
	4,739,762	04/1988	Palmaz			

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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,753,636	06/1988	Free			
		4,762,128	08/1988	Rosenbluth			
		4,772,266	09/1988	Groshong			
		4,798,193	01/1989	Giesy et al.			
		4,846,791	07/1989	Hattler et al.			
		4,865,593	09/1989	Ogawa et al.			
		4,869,717	09/1989	Adair			
		4,888,000	12/1989	McQuilkin et al.			
		4,896,669	01/1990	Bhate et al.			
		4,899,729	02/1990	Gill et al.			
		4,921,479	05/1990	Grayzel			
		4,941,874	07/1990	Sandow et al.			
		4,954,126	09/1990	Wallsten			
		4,955,895	09/1990	Sugiyama et al.			
		4,972,827	11/1990	Kishi et al.			
		4,986,830	01/1991	Owens et al.			
		5,021,241	06/1991	Yamahira et al.			
		5,045,056	09/19/91	Bwhl			
		5,078,736	01/1992	Behl			
		5,084,057	01/1992	Green et al.			
		5,100,388	03/1992	Behl et al.			
		5,100,420	03/1992	Green et al.			
		5,104,382	04/1992	Brinkerhoff et al.			
		5,112,304	05/1992	Barlow et al.			
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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,116,318	05/1992	Hillstead			
		5,122,122	06/1992	Allgood			
		5,139,511	08/1992	Gill et al.			
		5,158,545	10/1992	Trudell et al.			
		5,183,464	02/1993	Dubrul et al.			
		5,188,602	02/1993	Nichols			
		5,201,756	04/1993	Horzewski et al.			
		5,222,938	06/1993	Behl			
		5,222,971	06/1993	Willard et al.			
		5,234,425	08/1993	Fogarty et al.			
		5,246,424	09/1993	Wilk			
		5,250,025	10/1993	Sosnowski et al.			
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		5,275,611	01/1994	Behl			
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		5,290,276	03/1994	Sewell, Jr.			
		5,304,119	04/1994	Balaban et al.			
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		5,316,360	05/1994	Feikema			
		5,320,611	06/1994	Bonutti et al.			
		5,383,859	01/1995	Sewell, Jr.			
		5,392,766	02/1995	Masterson et al.			
		5,403,278	04/1995	Ernst et al.			
		5,407,430	04/1995	Peters			

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,431,655	07/1995	Melker et al.			
		5,431,676	07/1995	Dubrul et al.			
		5,433,708	07/1995	Nichols et al.			
		5,437,631	08/1995	Janzen			
		5,437,644	08/1995	Nobles			
		5,453,094	09/1995	Metcalf et al.			
		5,454,790	10/1995	Dubrul			
		5,454,825	10/1995	Van Leeuwen et al.			
		5,460,170	10/1995	Hammerslag			
		5,484,403	01/1996	Yoakum et al.			
		5,487,739	01/1996	Aebischer et al.			
		5,540,658	07/1996	Evans et al.			
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		5,573,517	11/1996	Bonutti et al.			
		5,601,559	02/1997	Melker et al.			
		5,662,614	09/1997	Edoga			
		5,674,240	10/1997	Bonutti et al.			
		5,713,867	02/1998	Morris			
		5,735,867	04/1998	Golser et al.			
		5,746,720	05/1998	Stouder, Jr.			
		5,800,390	09/1998	Hayakawa et al.			
		5,800,409	09/1998	Bruce			
		5,814,058	09/1998	Carlson et al.			
		5,824,002	10/1998	Gentelia et al.			

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		5,827,319	10/1998	Carlson et al.			
		5,836,913	11/98	Orth et al.			
		5,873,854	02/1999	Wolvek			
		5,882,345	03/1999	Yoon			
		5,902,28	05/1999	Balbierz			
		5,944,691	08/1999	Querns et al.			
		5,957,902	09/1999	Teves			
		5,961,499	10/1999	Bonutti, et al.			
		5,971,960	10/1999	Flom et al.			
		6,030,364	02/2000	Durgin et al.			
		6,063,060	05/2000	Moenning			
		6,077,248	06/2000	Zumschlinge			
		6,080,174	06/2000	Dubrul et al.			
		6,083,241	07/2000	Longo et al.			
		6,095,967	08/2000	Black et al.			
		6,146,400	11/2000	Hahnen			
		6,162,236	12/2000	Osada			
		6,210,376	04/2001	Grayson*			
		6,245,052	06/2001	Orth et al.			
		6,283,950	09/2001	Appling			

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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		6,293,909	09/2001	Chu et al.			
		6,306,124	10/2001	Jones et al.			
		6,325,789	12/2001	Janzen et al.			
		6,325,812	1220/01	Dubrul et al.			

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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		0 177 177	04/1986	Europe				
		2199247	07/1988	Great Britain				
		0 385 920	09/1990	Europe				
		WO 92/19312	11/1992	WIPO				
		WO 94/20026	09/1994	WIPO				
		WO 95/30374	11/1995	WIPO				
		WO 98 19730 A	05/1998	WIPO				
		DE 198 14 576A	10/1999	Germany				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Product Brochure ENDOMED™, Cooper Surgical, Inc. (1992) (2 pages)					
		Product Brochure BLUNTPORT, Auto Suture Company, a division of United States Surgical Corporation (1992) (1 page)					
		Product Brochure DEXIDE® Inc., Dexide, Inc. (1992) (1 page)					
		Product Brochure EXPANDO®, Bentley Harris (1988, 1990, 1991) (12 pages)					

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